

You want to get rid of the Interstate Commerce Commission?

Fine. But let's do it right. Vote "no" on the Hefley amendment.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time

CRIME IS ON THE RISE

HON. WILLIAM J. MARTINI

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 25, 1995

Mr. MARTINI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the House of Representatives with regard to a tragedy that has become far too common in this day and age. I am referring to the acts of senseless violence committed against our children that tear at the fabric of our society.

On a street in Paterson, NJ, a town in my congressional district, a young woman's dream to become a Wall Street entrepreneur or a scholar was shattered on Friday. She was attacked by unknown assailants who had approached her car and demanded money. When the young woman told her attackers that she had no money one of the men fired shots through the driver's side window. She was struck by the barrage of bullets; her best friend and the community were left in tears, by her side.

Cindy Del Carmen Villalba was 20 years old. She died 5 days short of her 21st birthday. Cindy was the valedictorian of her high school class, the first member of her family to attend college, and an honor student at Rutgers University in New Jersey where she studied business communications and Spanish. Cindy had just returned from a foreign study program where she taught, as well as learned from, schoolchildren in Costa Rica. She was 1 of 12 students chosen from Rutgers University to participate in the 6 week service, study program. In addition to her scholarly activities, she also was active in a dance troupe whose work explored Colombian themes and folklore, and she taught catechism at St. John's Cathedral.

Crime in our country is on the rise and the insecurity it breeds will erode the American peoples faith in the land of opportunity. It is with this passing that we as the Congress, as a Nation, and as a people need to summon the strength to dedicate ourselves to ending crime. Such an action will keep the memory of this young woman alive.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in extending my condolences to the family and friends of Cindy Del Carmen Villalba. It is a shame when a woman with such a bright future is taken from this world in such a senseless manner. She will be missed by everyone whose heart she touched and whose life she brightened.

THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA CONVENTION CENTER AND SPORTS ARENA AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 1995

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 25, 1995

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a bill that advances the process for

realizing two major projects in the District of Columbia: The District of Columbia Convention Center and Sports Arena Authorization Act of 1995. This bill combines and refines two bills that were previously introduced, taking each of these projects another step forward.

The sections addressing the convention center project allow for the expenditure of previously collected taxes for preconstruction work so that cost estimates and time lines can be confirmed before the building process begins. Additionally, it allows for the expenditure of funds to operate the present convention center. This language goes greatly unchanged from that in the previously introduced bill, H.R. 1862.

The sections addressing the sports arena refine the language in previously introduced bill, H.R. 1843. These sections allow the District to use an annually collected tax to finance the land acquisition and other background work for the sports arena project. Once these steps are taken, the sports arena can be built.

Both of these projects are being financed by District and private resources, and will bring significant revenue into the District's shrinking coffers. Additionally, both projects will bring additional and much needed jobs to District residents, both while the projects are in development and during the future operations of these facilities.

I am pleased to be joined in cosponsorship and support of this bill by so many of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle. I hope we can work together for speedy passage of this bill.

IMPORTANT FINDINGS ON VISION IMPAIRMENT AMONG OLDER AMERICANS

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 25, 1995

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to the attention of my colleagues new findings on a problem that affects millions of middle-aged and older Americans: impaired vision.

Recently, The Lighthouse, Inc.—a vision rehabilitation organization—commissioned a poll on vision loss which was conducted by Louis Harris and Associates. As part of this comprehensive study, over 1,200 Americans 45 or older were interviewed to determine the prevalence and severity of impaired vision. The results of the survey are stunning. Approximately one in six Americans 45 years of age or older report that he or she experiences moderately or severely impaired vision. Many suffer even while wearing corrective glasses or contact lenses. For adults 75 years or older, the number is even more startling: one in four have vision difficulties. When applied to the entire Nation, the survey shows that 13.5 million Americans aged 45 or older suffer some degree of vision impairment.

One of the most disturbing aspects of this problem is the lack of public awareness about treatment options and facilities. Thirty-five percent of Americans surveyed were found to be unaware of local services for people with impaired vision. Also, while 89 percent of those surveyed think health insurance for vision im-

pairment is somewhat or very important, only 75 percent are covered for severe vision impairment.

While many people suffering from vision impairment realize there are a variety of options to help correct vision loss—optical devices, adaptive aids, and rehabilitation—the Lighthouse survey shows that all of these options are under-utilized. Clearly, in combating vision impairment, one of our first targets must be to wipe out widespread ignorance about a problem that afflicts one in six Americans.

Mr. Speaker, as the Lighthouse study shows, we must take steps to guarantee that Americans can see with clarity. Such steps will improve the health, productivity and quality of life for millions of Americans. I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting the efforts of the Lighthouse, Inc. and to urge further action on this important topic.

VISITOR SERVICES IMPROVEMENT AND OUTDOOR LEGACY ACT OF 1995

HON. JAMES V. HANSEN

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 25, 1995

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation to improve the recreation experience on our Federal lands. Currently, funding to support recreational use of Federal lands is declining at the same time that recreational use is increasing. The staffing of the Federal land management agencies is inadequate and facilities, many of which are undersized, are deteriorating beyond the point where cost-effective repairs can be undertaken.

Some have urged that we simply appropriate more money for these purposes. However, in this time of deficient reduction, no one is approaching me volunteering programs with surplus funds. We must find ways to spend existing funds more wisely and to generate more funds within the programs themselves. The bill I am introducing today moves a long way in that direction.

Recreational use of Federal lands is one of the best deals in America today. It is such a good deal because 90 percent of the costs of services provided to recreational users are paid by persons who don't use the Federal lands. In recent years, recreational use on Federal lands has been subsidized by nearly \$1 billion annually. However, if we could develop a way for recreational users of Federal lands to pay just \$1 per person for their recreational use, Federal recreation programs would be self-sufficient.

The current Federal recreation fee program, as codified in section 4 of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act, is in need of a complete overhaul. There are three major problems with the existing law: First, inadequate cost recovery, second, lack of incentives for fee collection, and third, complex and often conflicting policies as a result of past congressional micromanagement of this program.

The legislation I am introducing today reflects a total revision of the existing law. Under my legislation, recreation user will be required to pay 75 percent of the annual costs of services provided to them. However, this legislation is not just a fee offset bill. It provides for